

the DVD, not in the memory 8, for example, if T_MENU item or MENU item is selected, data related to the request, e.g., a list of titles or chapters, are read out from the DVD and are then displayed on the displaying unit 4 after an appropriate format conversion.

Accordingly, the present invention enables a user of a digital apparatus like a digital television to conveniently request and execute various operations or functions of external digital devices that are connected to the digital apparatus without the direct control of or access to the external digital devices.

The foregoing is provided only for the purpose of illustration and explanation of the preferred embodiments of the present invention, so changes, variations and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of menu-based remote control of an external device that is connected to an audio/video apparatus, comprising the steps of:

(a) displaying a main menu image including menu items for selecting functions or operations of said external device and menu items for obtaining a detailed menu of said external device, the main menu image being stored in a memory of said audio/video apparatus; and

(b) transmitting command data to said external device, in response to the selection of one of the menu items associated with functions or operations of said external device, and/or displaying a menu image of the detailed menu which has been stored in said memory when one of the menu items for obtaining the detailed menu is selected.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein a menu item on

the main menu image displayed in said step (a) over which the cursor is positioned is displayed differently from other menu items.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the menu item over which said cursor is positioned is displayed differently from other menu items based on information about the positions of respective areas of menu items on said menu image, said information being stored in a memory of said audio/video apparatus.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein in said step (b), which menu item has been selected is determined based on the position of a cursor on said main menu image the instant that a selection key is inputted by a user.

5. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting to said external device command data in response to the selection of one of menu items on said detailed menu image displayed in said step (b).

6. A method according to claim 5, wherein said command data is transmitted to request and obtain information of said external device

7. A method according to claim 5, wherein said command data is transmitted to request and obtain information stored in a disk-type medium loaded in said external device